

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 16th March 2021 (via 'MS Teams')**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Mary Hayes SEO, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO; Catherine Price CO.

1. MINUTES

1. Minutes of Fermoy MD 'In Committee' Meeting held on 29th January 2021.

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

2. Minutes of Fermoy MD CDP (County Development Plan) Review Meeting held on 16th February 2021.

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

3. Minutes of Fermoy MD February 2021 Meeting held on 16th February 2021.

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

2. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. REPORT : March 2021 MDO Report (including update on Fermoy Remediation & Fish Bypass Project)

Pauline went through the contents of her report which was uploaded to DecisionTime and displayed onscreen at that time. The following items were highlighted:

- RE: Extension to free parking in Fermoy car parks. Mary Hayes SEO cautioned that there would be a budgetary difficulty and reduction in services in towns where pay-parking is suspended across the county including Fermoy, with this issue to be raised at CPG level. Following a brief discussion it was agreed to wait for CPG recommendation before Fermoy MD discuss this issue further and in the interim, free parking will continue for an additional three months to end of June 2021.

2. 2021 Community Grants draft Allocations

Catherine Price CO went through her detailed and comprehensively prepared draft Community Grant allocations, displaying onscreen the figures and allocation information. Pauline Moriarty MDO went through those applicants who were unsuccessful in their applications and the reasons why.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy requested Fermoy Tidy Towns application be reconsidered in due course, if feasible. The allocations, as presented, were adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

3. 2021 Town Development Fund draft Allocations

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the recommendations for these allocations (displayed onscreen), informing the Members that there is €110k not allocated yet pending guidance on Covid-19 provisions which may be required later in the year similar to Project ACT in 2020.

Pauline answered any queries the Members had and the allocations, as presented, were adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

4. 2021 Village Enhancement Scheme draft Allocations

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the recommendations for these allocations (displayed onscreen). Mary Hayes SEO said she is keen to discuss the proposals to enhance Knockanannig Reservoir with the Members, to enhance this walking amenity. Pauline answered any queries the Members had and the allocations, as presented, were adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

5. 2021 Pay Parking Dividend draft Allocations

This grant allocation, as presented, was adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

In relation to the grants allocations generally the following issues were raised:

- RE: Painting Scheme - Cllr. Frank O' Flynn voiced his disappointment that there is no opportunity for the villages to avail of the painting scheme as he thought this had previously been agreed.
- RE: Village Enhancement Scheme - it was confirmed that funding for this scheme is ring-fenced each year towards a particular village and plan.
- Further to a query from Cllr. Noel McCarthy, Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed that the masterplan for Knockanannig Reservoir enhancement includes for a cycleway and pedestrian walkway.

The Members thanked Catherine and Pauline for the presentations, acknowledging the huge amount of work done preparing these draft allocations and in managing to distribute the available funds as equitably and fairly as possible.

6. 2021 RI Programme

This 2021 RI Programme was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

7. PROGRESS REPORT : 2021 RI Programme

Brendan O' Gorman went through this progress report for the Members information.

8. 2021 RM Programme

Brendan advised the Members that maps for this programme will be provided in due course and this 2021 RM Programme was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

9. 2021 Drainage Programme

Brendan advised the Members that drainage works will be carried out on roads in the RI and RM programmes and also local, regional and national roads throughout the district. This 2021 Drainage Programme was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

10. 2021 Footpath Programme

Brendan O' Gorman went through all the works proposed in this programme including SIS, NTA and Clár works. He added the Contractor is ready to re-commence as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. This 2021 Footpath Programme was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. William O' Leary, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

11. 2021 Public Lighting Programme

Brendan went through the proposals on this programme and the 2021 Public Lighting Programme was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

In relation to the all the above programmes, Brendan O' Gorman SEE answered any and all questions the Members had and the Members thanked Brendan for his work in preparing these comprehensive works programmes for the district for 2021 and welcomed the works proposed therein to be undertaken this year.

Brendan also informed the Members of works planned to be done this year under other schemes as follows:

- (i) sewer in Conna and bridge in Glenseskin under the Climate Action Scheme
- (ii) application for future schemes to go to the Department by 26th March for works at Barnane Walk, Broomhill Cross and at a tributary to the River Bride where abutments are being damaged.

- (iii) 2021 grass-cutting contract is the same Contractor as 2020 and works to commence imminently.
- (iv) Section 38's for Doneraile, Brigown and Coolagown will likely be presented at the April 2021 meeting.
- (v) CIS schemes approved and planned for 2021.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

JOINT MOTION - Cllr. Kay Dawson & Cllr. Noel McCarthy

1. "that this Council prepares a report on why the pump malfunctioned on Rathealy Road during the flood event, resulting in three businesses being affected by floodwater in Brian Boru Square".
Cork County Council acts as the agent for the Office of Public Works in the delivery of the operation and maintenance phase of the Fermoy North Flood Scheme.
With regard to the flood event which occurred on 24 February 2021, this event appears to be related to a build-up of storm water behind the flood defences which could not gravitate to the Blackwater, which was in flood. The flood scheme pumping stations are designed to start up during periods of high water in the river and pump this "back of defence" storm water to the river.
It appears that on the 24th February there was a malfunction in the pumping station at Rathhealy Road, which resulted in stormwater build-up leading to water ingress at three premises in Brian Boru Square.
In light of above, every aspect of this malfunction is being investigated and the Council is currently reviewing its existing protocols and systems, to ensure that a similar event does not recur. It is expected that this review will lead to ensuring that the following measures are implemented, as required:
Pump station checklist monitoring on SCADA (online monitoring) system in advance of flood events.
Revised/more frequent maintenance schedule for pumping stations to be agreed with service contractor and implemented.
Trial run of pumping stations in advance of flood events.
On site checks of signs of flooding during major flood events, subject to prevailing weather advisories.
It is important to point out that the Fermoy flood relief scheme, with the exception of the pumping station issue above, operated as intended and flood waters from the Blackwater river were prevented from inundating the town. (BO'G)
The elected Members commended the staff who worked diligently for a period of time during this flooding event. It was acknowledged that the flooding of the business premises on Brian Boru Square was very unfortunate and agreed that the required measures will need to be taken to ensure this does not occur again.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

2. "that Cork County Council would give a detailed comprehensive report on why the flood alleviation plan for Fermoy did not work on the morning of Wednesday 24th February 2021 which resulted in the Blackwater river flooding and damaging residential and business premises in Fermoy which do not have flood insurance and also outline the remedial precautions that will be put in place to ensure there will not be a recurrence of this flooding".
As per No.1 above. (BO'G)

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

3. "that this Council, in conjunction with 'Spring Clean', would arrange a designated day to call to various Community Centres to collect rubbish picked up from public areas by Individuals / Communities".
COVID has given rise to changes in how we can operate and manage the spring clean this year. Groups MUST make contact with CCC in advance to agree the arrangements. It is essential that groups contact CCC before they commence spring clean. The areas being covered should be agreed with CCC in advance. Spring Clean bags are available from the MD for distribution to community

groups. Please note litter collected by community groups must be in bags for collection. An Taisce have also asked volunteers to use their own household bins to dispose of bags at this stage. Communities must be registered with An Taisce and comply with the rules set down by them i.e. volunteers can only do individual or household clean-ups, and within their 5km, before April 5th. Any larger clean ups will have to wait until further guidance from An Taisce. An Taisce are providing the Council with the list of communities that have registered. (PM)

Motion No. 6 was taken at this time. Further to a discussion it was agreed that there is a great public willingness to undertake clean-ups in local areas, and with no Civic Amenity Site in the district, the problem of disposal of this collected litter is an ongoing issue. It was agreed that the Area Offices would co-operate, as much as is feasible, with the collection of litter by prior arrangement (mindful of Covid-19 restrictions and An Taisce guidelines), and that a budget for this activity would be sought in future by the elected Members.

Cllr. William O' Leary

4. "that this Council would look at the possibility of installing extra signage / road markings at Church View Estate, Bartlemy to remind road users that the estate is indeed a 30km/phr zone in the interest of safety given that young families reside in the area".

Existing sign at entrance as per agreed protocol and policy and estate spur is very short. Not recommended. (BO'G)

It was recommended by Brendan O' Gorman SEE that An Garda Síochána be made aware of this driver behaviour at this location.

JOINT MOTION - Cllr. Kay Dawson & Cllr. Noel McCarthy

5. "that this Council immediately sets up a Traffic Management Committee to deal with such future events as a major flood and the forced closure of Kent Bridge. All stakeholders, including elected public representatives, executive staff, An Garda Síochána and Direct Route, should be involved in this Committee."

The operation of the flood defences forms part of CCC's Major Emergency Planning exercise, an executive function which is operated by means of specific plans and protocols. These protocols are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. The establishment of any such proposed Committee would be inappropriate. (PM)

This motion was supported all by the Members. Following a comprehensive discussion it was agreed that Fermoy MD would write to Direct Route seeking an up-to-date statement from them on their policy in relation to the operation of toll booths during future flood events in Fermoy.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

6. "that Cork County Council designate dates for a Spring Clean-Up week to assist communities with litter clean up within Level 5 Covid restrictions and 5km limits".

Same response as NOM 3 above. (PM)

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

7. "that this Council make application for new bridge at Glanworth linking Glanworth to Kilworth". We will convey the request to SMT of our Roads Directorate but proposal falls way down the list in terms of priority and need and there is no suitable central government department funding such measures currently. One needs to go through a comprehensive feasibility and design and consultative planning process before one makes any funding request for a major scheme like this. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by all the Members. Brendan O' Gorman SEE said that any previous studies done and proposals prepared in relation to the replacement of this bridge would be outdated as all construction and other standards and requirements would have changed considerably by now.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

8. "that this Council carries out drainage works outside Doneraile GAA Club to stop water lodging outside the entrance to the grounds".

Will be done. (BO'G)

Cllr. William O' Leary

9. "that this Council would install recycling bins in Fermoy town centre as a facility to dispose of coffee cups and other recyclable products".
The Council are currently carrying out a countywide review of bins in towns and villages and subject to the recommendations from this review and a suitable source of funding this can be considered.
(PM)
This motion was supported by all the Members.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

10. "call on Cork County Council to fill potholes on Ballyenehan north L-5616-0".
On patching list. (BO'G)

4. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Pride of Place Nomination Form 2021.

Nominations can be notified to Pauline Moriarty MDO.

2. Letter from IDA dated 15.3.2021 RE: IDA Business and Technology Park, Fermoy.

As this letter was only received and uploaded today, the Members undertook to read it and revert to Pauline with their comments and/or observations.

5. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr. Noel McCarthy complimented the two Fermoy groups who had prepared and uploaded to social media items to virtually celebrate St. Patrick's Day - Fermoy Internaitonal Choir and Fermoy Concert Band. All the Members concurred with Cllr. McCarthy saying these were terrific and well done to all involved.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Visibility at Richmond Hill

There is an issue with planters blocking visibility at Richmond Hill, Fermoy which Pauline undertook to examine with a view to resolving.

An Cathaoirleach thanked all involved in today's meeting and wished everyone a very happy national holiday for St. Patrick's Day.

Signed Kay Dawson

Date 20. 4. 2021